

Virginia §1115 Demonstration

FACT SHEET

Name of Waiver Proposal:	Virginia Medicaid Buy-In Program
Date Proposal Submitted:	November 7, 2003
Date Proposal Approved:	Pending
Scheduled Expiration Date:	N/A
Date Demonstration Implemented:	N/A

SUMMARY

On November 7, 2003, Virginia submitted an initial 1115 proposal to establish a limited Medicaid Buy-In program for employed persons with disabilities. The proposed demonstration eliminates barriers to competitive employment for individuals with disabilities by enabling them to become employed or increase earnings without fear of losing needed health care coverage. Virginia could potentially implement a program like this using a State Plan Amendment, however, this is a pilot project and requires demonstration authority.

The program proposes to demonstrate that the use of eligibility parameters and a comprehensive employment supports system can positively impact the outcomes of disabled participants. It also establishes that significantly higher income and resource levels, than currently exist in Virginia's Medicaid plan, provides the opportunity for disabled individuals to increase their standard of living and gain greater independence. The demonstration further examines the hypothesis of whether disabled persons who are gainfully employed have improved physical and/or mental health.

TARGET POPULATION/ELIGIBILITY

Individuals eligible for participation in the demonstration must:

- Be between the ages of 16 and 64
- Have a disability as defined by Social Security
- Have resources less than \$7,500 and total countable income (earned and unearned) not greater than 175% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- Continue to be competitively employed and pay a monthly premium
- Live and work in one geographic region of the Commonwealth, such as Northern Virginia

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SERVED

Not applicable at this time.

BENEFIT PACKAGE

Individuals that meet the eligibility requirements for participation in the demonstration will receive the same comprehensive benefit package offered to any individual that qualifies for Medicaid in the state of Virginia.

COST SHARING

Participants in the demonstration are required to pay minimally a \$25 monthly premium beginning the first month of participation. The monthly premium will increase as the participant increases their earnings. Premiums will increase incrementally to approximately 5% of an individual's countable income, which the Department of Social Services determines using the SSI countable income methodology. Participants must also pay a co-payment when receiving medical services, which will be the same as the standard Virginia Medicaid co-payments.

ENROLLMENT LIMIT/CAP

The program will be available to the first 200 individuals that qualify in one region of the Commonwealth, such as Northern Virginia. If individuals cease participation in the demonstration, the vacant slots will be available for new participants.

DELIVERY SYSTEM

Services for the demonstration would be provided under a fee-for-service delivery model. This system will enable participants to seek services from any Medicaid contracted provider in the state of Virginia.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Virginia will provide outcome data that includes qualitative and quantitative analyses to determine if access to Medicaid benefits assists disabled individuals to engage in and/or expand active employment. Participants will be interviewed initially and semi-annually for the purpose of gathering individual perspectives on factors that motivate persons with a disabilities to seek full employment, their perceived challenges and successes, and how the State can assist participants in gaining full employment and increased independence. This quality information tool will be instrumental in making program adjustments and its results will populate a report that will describe enrollee perceptions about their participation in the project.

MODIFICATIONS/AMENDMENTS

Not applicable at this time.

For additional information, please contact the CMS Project Officer – Linda Abbott at 410-786-4662 or Labbott@cms.hhs.gov.

Last Updated: April 9, 2004